

Katherine Jones-Newton
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March 5, 2015

Dear Members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee,

My name is Katherine Jones-Newton. I am here to speak in support of House Bill # 6878, AN ACT CONCERNING WORKERS' COMPENSATION LIABILITY FOR INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING SERVICES FROM PERSONAL CARE ATTENDANTS.

In 2012 I was in a bad car accident and I broke my hip. Since then my mobility has been limited and it has been thanks to the help of home care workers that I have been able to stay in my home and live as much as a normal life as I can have.

Being able to receive home care services in my house has had a great impact on my quality of life. After being in a facility for 6 months, I know the difference that it makes to be able to be in your home where I feel secure, comfortable and happy.

My home care workers help me in every part of my life; they help me move, take a shower, make sure I take my medication, get my groceries, clean my house and a million other small things that I might need throughout the day. They also become my friends and they support me in my times of need and I do the same.

Home care workers deserve to feel as safe as they make me feel when they work in my home. I would love to be able to pay for my home care workers to have workers' compensation but unfortunately I do not have the resources to do so. This means that workers have no protections if they suffer an accident in my home and I lose a good worker with no way of knowing if he or she will be able to pay for the care they need.

The lack of workers' compensation also means that home care workers can't stay with me for more than 25.75 hours per week. This lack of hours means that I am forced to have 3 or 4 people in my home every week. I want to feel comfortable in my home and sometimes that is difficult when I have people coming in and out of my home. More importantly, I sometimes lose my best home care workers because I can't provide them with the hours they deserve.

As a person who receives home care services, I know the impact that they can have on people's lives. Home care workers help me have a good life while I stay in my home feeling secure, comfortable and happy. This is why I am asking this committee to support this bill that will provide home care workers with the protections they need to feel safe and secure in our homes.

Thank you,

Katherine Jones-Newton